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ea
7/3/01

Docket No.: 52352-372

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Jeffrey A. SHIELDS, et al.

Serial No.: 09/498,336

Filed: February 04, 2000

For: CF4 + H2O PLASMA ASHING FOR REDUCTION OF CONTACT/VIA
RESISTANCE

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Group Art Unit: 1765

Examiner: V. Perez Ramos

RECEIVED
JUN 27 2001
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

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JUL 02 2001
TC 1700

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment, prior to initial examination is solicited.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the first paragraph beginning at page 1 under heading "RELATED

APPLICATION" as follows:

--This application contains subject matter similar to subject matter disclosed in copending

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/498,335 filed on February 4, 2000.--

AI
Sub
DL

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 20 are pending in this application. By the present amendment, the
current status of copending applications mentioned in the specification has been updated. Care